

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached Replacement sheets of drawings including Figures 1 to 3 are submitted in response to the drawing objections detailed in the Office Action regarding Figures 1 and 3. No new matter has been added. The Replacement sheets replace the original sheet containing Figures 1 to 3. Approval and entry are respectfully requested, and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Attachment: two (2) Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice, so that claims 12 to 16 and 18 to 22 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 11 were previously canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement for the claim of foreign priority and the indication that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

Claim 17 was objected to for alleged informalities. Claim 17 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present objection. Further, while Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of this objection, to facilitate matters, claim 12, which has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter like that of canceled claim 17, has been written so that the present objection is not applicable to claim 12.

The drawings were objected to for inclusion of unlabeled boxes. Applicants have amended the drawings to obviate the present objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

The title was objected to as not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to obviate the present objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 17 includes allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 12 and 20 has been rewritten without prejudice to include subject matter like that of claim 17, thereby rendering moot all of the rejections. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 12 and 20 and their respective dependent claims, *i.e.*, claims 13 to 16, 18, and 19, and claims 21 and 22, are allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

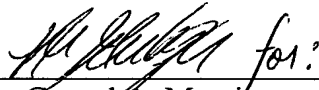
Accordingly, all of pending claims 12 to 16 and 18 to 22 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 12 to 16 and 18 to 22 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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